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EXAMINER
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POPOVICS, ROBERT J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1724

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/12/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

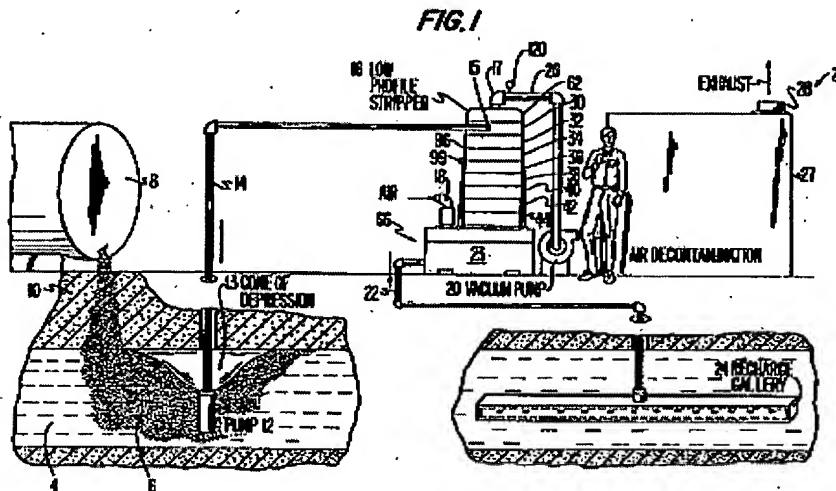
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## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

Claims **1,3-6,9-12,14** and **16-20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Rentschler (US 5,352,276)**.



As shown in Fig. 1, Rentschler discloses a water remediation system.

**From column 11 of Rentschler, beginning at line 5:**

The system is particularly useful for decontamination of water contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOC) which may be introduced to Found water through leakage of a storage tank or the like, as illustrated in FIG. 1. A typical example is a gas station from which VOCs have leaked into the groundwater. Chemical species that make up the contamination include gasoline components, e.g., MTBE (methyl tert-butyl ether) and the BTEX compounds (benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene and xylenes) as well as other water insoluble, high vapor pressure compounds.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed **November 2, 2006** have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants have argued, ***"Rentschler does not disclose or suggest the use of a dynamic venturi effect for stripping according to Applicant's claimed invention."*** This argument is not commensurate in scope with the claims that remain rejected in view of Rentschler. The stripper of Rentschler is in the process flowline, and hence, ***"inline."*** The claims do not specify a ***"venturi."*** Pipe 14 passes through an ***"orifice"*** in the sidewall of stripper 16, and as such, is seen to meet the limitations of the claims. As for Applicants' arguments urging that the tray stripper of Rentschler does not permit ***"concurrent flow,"*** the claims only require that flow through the orifice be concurrent, and not concurrent through the whole stripper assembly. It is in Rentschler. The exiting of the extract of Rentschler through inlet 15 is seen to constitute ***"expanding,"*** as the term is used by Applicants.

The functional recitations appearing in apparatus claims 12,14 and 16-20 are not seen to patentably distinguish these claims from Rentschler. A recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims **21-33** are allowed.

Claim **7** and **8** are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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### ***Drawings***

The drawings are objected to because in **Figure 1**, the pump and two squares above it need reference numerals. In **Fig. 2**, it is unclear what the cross-hatched shape in the chamber 36 is intended to represent, and the flows into the air amplifier 34 need to be labeled with reference numerals. Is **Fig. 4** a depiction of the "prior art?". Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Robert J. Popovics at telephone number (571) 272-1164.



Robert James Popovics  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1724

